



**SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**  
ADVENTURES & EXPEDITIONS

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Member of Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism Mongolia  
Adventure & Cultural & Expeditions, since 1997!



### **MONGOLIA PRIVATE EXPERIENCE TOUR WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**

**TOUR DURATION:** 5 days/4 nights

**TOUR CODE:** **SMT-5D**

**MINIMUM GROUP:** **2-16** adults or more participants.

**STARTS/ENDS IN:** ULAANBAATAR (INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS OR TRAINS ARE NOT INCLUDED).

**VALID PRIVATE DEPARTURES:** **MAY, JUNE, JULY** (\*except from **July 01-20-Peak Season!**. Consult special programs and **FESTIVAL NAADAM GROUP rates**), **AUGUST, SEPTEMBER**.

**CONSULT GROUP RATES AND HOTELS:** **CONTACT**

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**TOUR DESCRIPTION:** We will begin the route at the New "Genghis" Khan Airport of Ulaanbaatar (inaugurated on July 3, 2021, located 52 km/32.3 miles, approx. **+2-3** hours of travel depending on traffic), capital of Mongolia, with a welcome reception by the team of **Samar Magic Tours**. This is one of the most interesting routes in Mongolia. Next, departure in a **N/E** direction to visit the **Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan**. At the base of the statue, visitors can see the replica of the legendary Golden Whip of the Great Khan. Tourists can go up by elevator inside the statue. The exit is at the height of Genghis Khan's groin, from where one can walk to the horse's head to enjoy a magnificent panoramic view of the steppe. We will visit a small **Bronze Age Museum**, located in the basement of the **Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan**.

Departure in a **N/E** direction to **Gorkhi/Terelj National Park**, located 1,600 m above sea level, with high granite rocks from the Mesozoic, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and large rock formations of curious shapes from the Mesozoic such as the **Turtle Rock**, among others. It is located at the foot of the Khenti mountains, the region where Genghis Khan was born. It was declared a **National Park** in 1993 and covers an area of 300,000 hectares.

Next, departure in a **WEST** direction to attend an **Authentic Mongol Nomadic Show**, which demonstrates the traditional way of life of Mongolian nomads, the breeding and use of five types of livestock when moving from one place to another, using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses. A large part of the Mongolian population continues to live as nomads, moving from one place to another on horseback, by camel or yak, with their Gers and herds. The occasional encounter with one of these families and their lifestyle is an unforgettable experience.

**We emphasize that in order to truly enjoy this experience, one must accept in advance the conditions outlined above, let go of preconceived notions about how things "should be" according to our own mindset, and remain open to what this country can offer.**

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## **MONGOLIA PRIVATE EXPERIENCE TOUR WITH SAMAR MAGIC TOURS**

**Ulaanbaatar – Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue – Gorkhi/Terelj National Park – Ulaanbaatar – Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show – Ulaanbaatar**

**B**–Breakfast, **L**–Lunch, **D**–Dinner

**Day 1:** Arrival in Ulaanbaatar (**UBN**) / Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the reception of the new “Genghis” Khan Airport. Transfer to the hotel (52 km / 32.3 miles, about **2-3** hours’ drive, depending on traffic). For the clients arriving in Ulaanbaatar on flight **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines)** from **FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany)** at **05:10 AM**, or flight **TK236 (Turkish Airlines)** from **IST (Istanbul, Turkey)** at **07:10 AM**. **Early check-in (hotel room early entry) must be paid in advance. Rooms will only be available from 2:00 PM on the day of arrival. No activities or meals are included today. Rest at the hotel to adjust to local time.** Selected Hotel.

**Day 2: 09:00 AM** – Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception / Grand City Tour in Ulaanbaatar / Welcome Lunch / **06:00 PM (18:00)** – National Mongolian Concert. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

**Day 3:** Ulaanbaatar / Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue / Gorkhi–Terelj National Park / Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

**Day 4:** Ulaanbaatar / Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show / Ulaanbaatar. Last shopping. Selected Hotel. **(B)(L)**

**Day 5:** Hotel check-out in Ulaanbaatar by **12:00 noon**. Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Transfer to the new “Genghis” Khan Airport (52 km / 32.3 miles, about **4-5** hours’ drive, depending on Ulaanbaatar traffic). **Departure from Mongolia. END OF THE TOUR. (B)**



## DETAILED ITINERARY:

**B**-Breakfast, **L**-Lunch, **D**-Dinner

### Day 1: Arrival in Ulaanbaatar

Arrival in Ulaanbaatar (**UBN**)/Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the reception of the New "Genghis" Khan Airport. Transfer to the hotel (52 km/32.3 miles, **+2-3** hours of travel, depending on traffic). If the clients arrive in Ulaanbaatar with **OM138 (Mongolia Airlines)** from **FRAN (Frankfurt, Germany)** at **05:10AM** or with **TK236 (Turkish Airlines)** from **IST (Istanbul, Turkey)** at **07:10AM**. **Clients must pay in advance for early check-in (early entry to hotel rooms)**. Rooms can only be used starting from **02:00PM** on the day of arrival. **Today there are no activities and no meals included.** Rest at the hotel to adapt to the local time zone. Selected Hotel.

### Day 2: Grand Tour in Ulaanbaatar/Welcome Lunch/Mongolian National Concert. Selected Hotel. (B)(L)

**09:00AM**–Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Panoramic tour of Ulaanbaatar: visit to the most important Buddhist Monastery in Mongolia, **Gandan**

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**Monastery**, which houses a 25-meter-high Buddha. **The Gandan Monastery** was founded in 1809 under the name **Yellow Temple**. The monastery holds a library with Buddhist scriptures of Gandjuur (08 volumes), their commentaries (225 volumes), and other scriptures written with the 9 precious stones. It was declared a State Heritage Site in 1994. Visits include the **Mongolian History Museum**, with a rich collection of Historical and Cultural treasures from the Stone Age to the present, **Sukhbaatar Main Central Square**, and the **Genghis Khan Monumental Complex**, built in 2006 on the occasion of the 800th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Mongolian State or Mongol Empire by "Genghis" Khan (1206–2006). It is located in front of the Mongolian Parliament and Government House. **Welcome Lunch included at a traditional local restaurant. 06:00PM–Enjoy a folk show with Mongolian singing and dance. Transfer to the hotel.** Accommodation at the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**



### **Day 3: Ulaanbaatar/Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan/Gorkhi-Terelj National Park/Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. (B)(L)**

Breakfast. **09:00AM**–Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Departure **N/E** to the **40-meter/133.3-foot Equestrian Statue of Genghis Khan** (55 km/34.2 miles, **2** hours, depending on traffic leaving the city). The statue symbolically points east towards his birthplace. It stands atop the **Genghis Khan Statue Complex**, a visitor center 10 meters (32 feet 10 inches) high, with **36** columns representing the **36** khans from **Genghis Khan to Ligdan Khan**. Visitors can walk up to the horse's head through its chest and neck, where they can enjoy panoramic views. Near the statue, visitors can take photos with **Kazakh eagle hunters and their Golden Eagles**, ride **Bactrian camels**, enjoy **horseback riding on Mongolian horses** across the steppes, or try **archery (\*extra cost on site)**. **Mongolian traditional lunch included in route.** Next, departure to **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park** (50 km/31.1 miles, 1 hr), located in the N/E, 1,600 m above sea level, with high granite rocks from the Mesozoic era, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and

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large rock formations of curious shapes such as **Turtle Rock**, etc. It is situated at the foot of the Khentii Mountains, the region where Genghis Khan was born. It was declared a **National Park** in 1993 and covers an area of 300,000 hectares. Stop for photos, souvenir shopping, and walking to the **Turtle Rock**, symbol of **Gorkhi-Terelj National Park**. Light hike to the **Arryabal Meditation Temple**, located on a hill. **Afterwards, return to Ulaanbaatar** (70 km/44 miles, **+2** hours of travel, depending on traffic upon entry). Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

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# MONGOLIA



## **Day 4: Ulaanbaatar/Authentic Mongol Nomadic Show/Ulaanbaatar. Selected Hotel. (B)(L)**

Breakfast. **07:00AM**–Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Departure **westwards** to attend an **Authentic Mongol Nomadic Show** (35 km/22 miles, **+2** hours of travel, depending on traffic leaving the city), held from **10:00AM to 01:00PM**. The **Authentic Mongol Nomadic Show** demonstrates the traditional lifestyle of Mongolian nomads, the breeding and use of five types of livestock when moving from one place to

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another, using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses. **Mongolian traditional lunch included at the camp. Return to Ulaanbaatar** (approx. 35 km/22 miles, +2 hours of travel, depending on traffic upon entry). **Last chance for Mongolian souvenir shopping at the main State Department Store.** Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel in the indicated double room basis. **Dinner not included, on your own.**

**Day 5: Departure from Mongolia. (B)**

Breakfast. Hotel check-out in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00PM**. Meet with the **Samar Magic Tours** team at the hotel reception. Transfer to the New "Genghis" Khan Airport (52 km/32.3 miles, **4-5** hours of travel, depending on Ulaanbaatar traffic). Departure from Mongolia. **END OF THE GRAND TRIP.**





## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **4** nights of accommodation in the selected and confirmed hotel, based on double occupancy with breakfast, in Ulaanbaatar.
- Welcome lunch at a traditional local restaurant.
- Meals as specified (**4B, 3L**) with 1 bottle of mineral water per day.
- All private transfers by bus or tourist van (\*depending on the confirmed group size) in Ulaanbaatar, the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, and the Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show, with all fuel included. **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle according to the number of participants; no claims will be accepted for these reasons, and no refunds will be issued.
- Spanish-speaking local guide.
- All entrance fees to Gorkhi-Terelj National Park, the Arryabal Meditation Temple, the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, monuments, museums, and monasteries.
- Admission to a traditional folklore performance featuring the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing and Mongolian dance.
- Admission to an Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show.
- Experience and insight into authentic nomadic life.
- Light hiking through beautiful landscapes.
- Service rates include 10% VAT, 2% municipal tax in Ulaanbaatar, and a 5% service charge in city hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Flights and trains.
- Occasional flight delays or cancellations.
- **Early check-in at hotels.**
- **Late check-out at hotels.**
- Excess luggage in our vehicles.
- Visa.
- Any rescue costs or early departure fees.
- Date changes for Ulaanbaatar departures.
- Travelers are responsible for having the proper travel documents, such as a valid passport and required passport photos.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal items such as hotel porter tips, phone/telex/fax charges, laundry, beverages, meals, optional activities, and services not specified in the itinerary.
- Any circumstances beyond our control, such as quarantine restrictions, weather conditions, or road conditions.

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## HIGHLIGHTED EXPERIENCES

- Listen to the fascinating sounds of khoomi throat singing during a traditional dance performance.
- Visit the **Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue**.
- Explore **Gorkhi/Terelj National Park**, located northeast of Ulaanbaatar at an altitude of 1,600 m above sea level, with high granite rock formations from the Mesozoic era, mountains, steppes, alpine forests, and striking rock formations such as the **Turtle Rock**, among others.
- Attend an **Authentic Mongolian Nomadic Show**, demonstrating the traditional lifestyle of Mongolian nomads—the breeding and use of five types of livestock while moving from one place to another using ox carts, yaks, camels, and horses.





## TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Mongolia visa not included.
- International flights and trains not included.
- Hotel check-in time in Ulaanbaatar is at **02:00PM**. Early check-in is not included.
- Hotel check-out time in Ulaanbaatar is at **12:00 noon**. Late check-out is not included.
- There is a surcharge during the **Naadam Festival**, applicable for travel between **July 1 and July 20 – Peak Season in Mongolia**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.
- In the capital city of Ulaanbaatar & Gorki-Terelj National Park: **Dinners are not confirmed. Dinners are on your own.**
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to arrange lunches on the route where possible. In no case will complaints be accepted on these grounds, nor will refunds be issued.
- **Samar Magic Tours** reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. In no case will complaints be accepted on these grounds, nor will refunds be issued.
- **Vegetarians must pay a supplement, since vegetables are very expensive in Mongolia**, and the Mongolian diet is based on meat rather than vegetables. You must notify us in advance and pay the supplement, which depends on the number of days in Mongolia.
- Please note: **MONGOLIA is not recommended** for people with respiratory or heart problems, wheelchair users, disabled travellers, or children under **3** years of age.
- When visiting nomadic families: you must enter the Ger on the left side and step in with your right foot. Once you cross the threshold, your hosts will invite you inside and indicate where you should sit. It is customary to bring a small gift for the nomadic children, but never money, as it is offensive. Acceptable gifts include sweets, cookies, chocolates, candies, colored pencils, caps... small treats of this kind.
- All photos are the property of **Samar Magic Tours**. They may be used for promotional purposes when working with **Samar Magic Tours**. **Our photos are strictly prohibited from being used to promote work with other Mongolian tour operators.**

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## PROPOSED HOTELS IN ULAANBAATAR

HOTELS	ROOM	LOCATION
<b>BLUE SKY &amp; TOWER HOTEL 5*</b> 	<b>DELUXE TWIN ROOM</b> 	<b>Blue Sky &amp; Tower Hotel 5★</b> Located just 50 meters in front of Ulaanbaatar's central Sukhbaatar Square and the Mongolian Government Palace, right in the heart of the city. The hotel features 6 restaurants: Korean (Seoul), Chinese Jade Palace (Cantonese cuisine), Japanese Zen, and All Seasons (offering an excellent buffet breakfast). Facilities include sauna, massages, swimming pool, gym, Wi-Fi, rooftop observation deck, several cafés, and parking. All rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV, minibar, and safe.  <b>Check-in: from 14:00</b> <b>Check-out: by 12:00 noon</b>
<b>HOLIDAY INN HOTEL 5*</b> 	<b>STANDART TWIN ROOM</b> 	<b>Holiday Inn Hotel 5★</b> Located a 20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's most important Buddhist monastery, and 1.2 km from Ulaanbaatar's central Sukhbaatar Square. The hotel offers 20 floors, 2 elevators, a restaurant, Wi-Fi, a café on the ground floor, and parking.  <b>Check-in: from 14:00</b> <b>Check-out: by 12:00 noon</b>





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## MILLENNIUM PLAZA HOTEL 4\*



## STANDART TWIN ROOM



## Millennium Plaza Hotel 4★

Situated less than 1.5 km from Sukhbaatar Square in central Ulaanbaatar, and 52 km (32.3 miles) from the new "Chinggis Khaan" Airport. The hotel has 72 well-equipped rooms, a Korean restaurant, and a lobby café. Five event venues: elegant ballroom, large conference hall, and other entertainment spaces. In addition, luxurious karaoke rooms.

**Check-in: from 14:00**

**Check-out: by 12:00 noon**

## RAMADA HOTEL 4\*



## STANDART TWIN ROOM



## Ramada Hotel 4★

Located in a shopping complex with 17 floors of modern architecture, offering 121 rooms and suites. The Hotel Ramada is situated in the heart of Ulaanbaatar, 52 km (32.3 miles) from the new "Chinggis Khaan" Airport and a 15–20-minute walk from Gandan Monastery.

**Check-in: from 14:00**

**Check-out: by 12:00 noon**



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## PREMIUM PALACE HOTEL 4\*



## STANDART TWIN ROOM



## Premium Palace Hotel 4 ★

The is located 20 minutes on foot from the Gandan Monastery, the most important in Mongolia, and 2.3 km from Sukhbaatar Central Square.

The Premium offers 192 rooms, 2 elevators, 2 restaurants: Yu Long Chinese and buffet breakfast, number of floors: 20, Wi-Fi, gym, CU café on the 1st floor, and a small parking area.

**Check-in: from 14:00**  
**Check-out: by 12:00 noon**

## NOVOTEL HOTEL 5\*



## STANDART TWIN ROOM



## Novotel Hotel 5★

A modern hotel located in the heart of downtown, within walking distance of the Government Palace, Chinggis Khan Square, and major offices and embassies. It is approximately 2+ hours from the new "Genghis Khan" International Airport and 1 hour from Ulaanbaatar's train station. The hotel features 192 rooms, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, a gym, an indoor swimming pool, and a 362 m² ballroom adaptable for events.

**Check-in: from 14:00**  
**Check-out: by 12:00 noon**





### **LIST SUGGESTED PACKING LIST**

- Flashlight
- Spare batteries/bulb
- Personal medications
- Waterproof hiking boots
- Waterproof jacket with hood
- Waterproof over-pants
- Fleece jacket or wool sweater
- Cotton T-shirts
- Long-sleeved shirts
- Lightweight pants
- Shorts
- Socks
- Underwear
- Sun hat
- Sandals
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Plastic zip-lock bags
- Binoculars/camera
- Watch/alarm clock
- Money belt or travel pouch

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## GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR TRAVEL TO MONGOLIA

**PRICE:** Prices are calculated based on **double occupancy**. Prices and rates are quoted in EUROS and USD and are subject to change.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A **Naadam Festival** surcharge applies for travel from **July 1 to July 20 (Peak Season in Mongolia)**, when all services and accommodations are fully booked.

### RESERVATION FORM DETAILS:

FULL NAME(S) AND SURNAME(S) (AS WRITTEN IN THE PASSPORT):

CITIZENSHIP:

VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:

GENDER:

DATE OF ARRIVAL IN ULAANBAATAR, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND ARRIVAL TIME:

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MONGOLIA, FLIGHT NUMBER, AND DEPARTURE TIME:

SELECTED HOTEL IN ULAANBAATAR (FROM THE INDICATED OPTIONS):

SELECTED TOUR CODE:

- At the time of registering for the trip, **the reservation form must be completed**, and the reservation guarantee must be paid immediately by bank transfer, at least **165** business days before arrival in Mongolia.
- **The final payment for the trip** must be made by bank transfer, at least **95** business days before arrival in Mongolia.
- Banks in Mongolia do not operate on **Saturdays, Sundays, or public holidays** such as **March 8, June 1**, or during the **Naadam Festival (July 1-15)**.
- Bank transfers take **5** business days to be received.

**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:** If payments are **not made on the indicated dates**, we cannot guarantee the requested services. In such cases, you will need to check the new rates and availability in other hotels.

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

**180-91 days before arrival: the reservation guarantee is non-refundable.**

**90-19 days before arrival: 50% refund.**

**18-0 business days before arrival: 100% cancellation fee – NO REFUND.**

**For air and train ticket cancellations: separate conditions apply.** International and domestic air and train fares are subject to modification depending on availability at the time of booking. Air and train fares are only guaranteed once tickets are issued and fully paid. Tickets are non-refundable and can only be cancelled on the same day of issuance.

**HOTELS:** Rooms may be used from **2:00 PM** on the day of arrival and must be vacated before **12:00 noon** on the day of departure.

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**TRANSPORT:** Samar Magic Tours reserves the right to change the vehicle depending on the number of participants. Under no circumstances will we accept claims for this reason, and no refunds will be made.

**COMPLIMENTARY TRAVEL STAFF IN MONGOLIA:**

- For groups of **16** people (**15** paying + **1** free, based on **double occupancy: 8 rooms**), Samar Magic Tours will cover all ground expenses and accommodation in double rooms. **Not included: single room supplement, domestic air tickets in Mongolia.**
- For groups of **32** people (**30** paying + **2** free, based on double occupancy: **16 rooms**), Samar Magic Tours will cover all ground expenses and accommodation in double rooms. **Not included: single room supplement, domestic air tickets in Mongolia.**

**PLEASE NOTE: MONGOLIA** is not recommended as a destination for travellers with respiratory problems, heart conditions, those in wheelchairs, disabled persons, or children under **3** years of age.

**CHILD POLICY IN MONGOLIA:**

- 0–3 years:** free of charge
- 4–11 years:** 50% of the regular adult price
- 12 years and above:** 100% of the regular adult price

**CLIMATE CHANGES:** Not included in our services. These are external conditions. In such cases, we will do everything possible to find the best available solution. However, no claims will be accepted for the consequences of weather changes, and no refunds will be made.

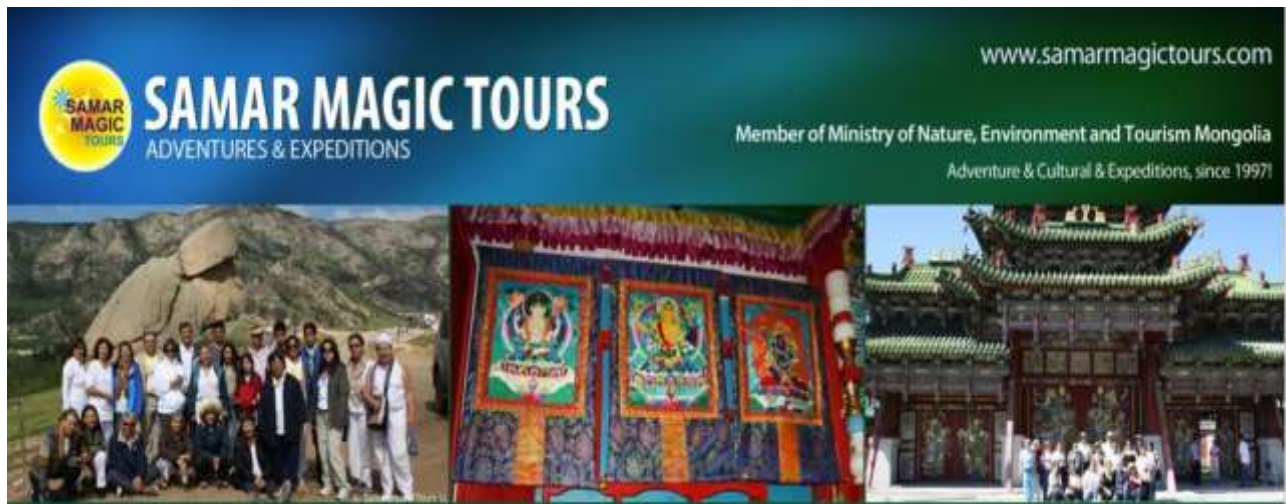
**TRAVEL CONDITIONS:**

Mongolia is a country where tourist infrastructure is almost non-existent and still in development. Distances are vast, requiring many hours of travel and involving significant fuel costs. The journey is carried out mostly on dirt and sand tracks. Depending on their condition, travellers may spend many hours on the road. A large part of the Mongolian population is still nomadic, moving from place to place on horseback, camel, or yak, with their Gers and herds. An occasional encounter with one of these families and their way of life is an unforgettable experience. **To enjoy the trip, travellers must accept these conditions in advance, let go of preconceived notions about how things “should” be, and remain open to what this country has to offer.**

**FORCE MAJEURE CONDITIONS:**

While it is our absolute desire to carry out the trip as detailed in the program, on occasion there may be force majeure circumstances that require modifications. **Samar Magic Tours** is not legally responsible for those force majeure situations beyond the organization’s control that may force changes to the travel program. These reasons and circumstances include possible security risks for travellers, political instability or violence, rebellions or the threat of rebellion, strikes, riots and violent actions, decisions by governments or local

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authorities, technical or maintenance problems related to transport, changes in flight or road schedules or routes, natural disasters, epidemics, adverse weather conditions, and any other circumstances beyond the control of **Samar Magic Tours**.

If, due to exceptional circumstances of force majeure, it becomes necessary to cancel the trip, there is no obligation of compensation.

I have read and understood the section on Obligations and Responsibility detailed above in the form, as well as the General Information and Special Booking Conditions set out in the tour information materials, and I accept them on behalf of myself and my group. I declare that I am not traveling against any medical advice.

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VALID PASSPORT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITIZENSHIP:** \_\_\_\_\_





## FACT SHEET OF MONGOLIA

**Currency:** The official currency in Mongolia is the Tugrik or Tugrug (T). It comes in banknotes of 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, and 20,000 Tugrik. It is advisable to bring EUROS or USD and exchange them progressively. Currency exchange can be done at banks and hotels in Ulaanbaatar.

**Climate:** Known as the land of the blue sky, but its climate is extreme and severe. Siberian winters cover the Gobi Desert with snow until April and keep lakes frozen until May. The rainy season is short, from mid-**July to September**, with brief and light showers. Nights are cool even in summer.

### Approximate temperatures in Mongolia:

<b>Spring:</b>	<b>May</b>	[around 14°C daytime, 6° °C nighttime. Occasional rain, generally cool.]
<b>Summer:</b>	<b>June-August</b>	[28–30 °C daytime, 18 °C nighttime. Mostly dry with occasional rain.]
<b>Autumn:</b>	<b>September.</b>	[21–16 °C daytime, 0 °C nighttime. Dry and cold.]

**Luggage:** The lighter the luggage, the better. A soft backpack or travel bag is recommended, plus a small daypack for essentials during the day (camera, skin and lip cream, binoculars, canteen, and flashlight). A raincoat or poncho and a good parka, warm clothes for high places, light cotton clothes, sunglasses, and a cap for midday heat, as well as comfortable footwear, are recommended. Clients are advised to bring binoculars.

**Small first-aid kit:** mosquito repellent, saline solution, gauze, aspirin, paracetamol.

**Electricity:** 220V, 50Hz. European round plug.

**Clothing:** No special requirements regarding dress, just respect local customs.

**Photography:** The country is one of the most photogenic in the world, with its landscapes, wildlife, culture, and people. Entrance fees to museums, National Parks, and Monasteries are included in the trip according to the program, but photography is not. In many monasteries and temples, photos are not allowed unless you pay the set fee. Always check before taking photos, as notices are written in Cyrillic or Mongolian, often unintelligible for us; once you take a picture, payment is immediate.

**Food:** The basis of food in Mongolia is meat. Lamb and flour form the base of most meals. The Mongolian diet also includes horse meat. Milk and yogurt have an exquisite though strong

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flavor. Cow and goat cheese are common.

Milk may not be pasteurized, and some dairy products can therefore be unsafe. It should be boiled, and foods should preferably be consumed cooked. This is the health guideline, but in reality, once you stop at a Ger, guests are always invited to enter and offered aromatic *airag* (fermented mare's milk) and goat, yak, or sheep cheese, all acidic and dry. Refusing would not be polite.

**Shopping:** Bargaining is not common in Mongolia. Even bargaining, you won't usually pay less than 70% of the asking price. Some shops offer handicrafts, postcards, and clothing. Also available are carpets, leather and fur products, as well as cashmere and camel hair items. Wooden toys, puzzles, and games, along with oil paintings and watercolors. In the capital's stores, European products are available—expensive, especially in the State Department Store and other new shopping centers—which carry almost anything you may want, both Mongolian and foreign.

**Precautions: Mongolia is a safe place for tourism;** there are no drugs, assaults, or weapons. However, as anywhere in the world, one must be cautious with pickpockets.

**It is recommended that upon arrival at the hotel** you immediately place in the hotel safe (in the room or at reception): passport, visas, money, documents, valuables, etc., before going out for visits in Ulaanbaatar. Be careful in restaurants, pizzerias, cafés, markets, the central post office, and monasteries, where there are pickpockets.





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### **HOLIDAY INN HOTEL 5\***



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